

flowing with gratitude to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, there was even a severer look in her kindly old face, as she surveyed Mrs. Becky in her shining wraps, than when she put a quietus on her insolence in the Garland sitting room.

Garland's partner walked slowly to the carriage containing this worthy pair, and made a short speech. "Mr. Wintermute," said he, "Owing to reasons which will doubtless suggest themselves to you, Mrs. Garland finds herself compelled to deny herself the pleasure and honor of dining with you to-day. Mr. Garland desires me to thank you for the solicitude you have manifested for the welfare of his family, and to say that to-morrow his legal advisor will call on you for the purpose of arranging for the reconveyance, to Mr. Garland, of the homestead and appurtenances. And now, wishing you and Mrs. Scrimgeour a merry Christmas, I will bid you good day." And the faithful friend and partner turned on his heel and went back to the house, the doors of which were soon closed upon the Garland party, who, one and all, were shut up in measureless content.

Shall we follow the fortunes of the conspirators any farther? Poor old Obed! He ordered

the driver to return home forthwith. Not a word, during the drive, did he speak to Mrs. Becky. And not a word did the baffled tergiversant venture to address to him. Obed walked quietly to his snugery and drew a check for six months' salary in advance, in favor of his housekeeper, and tapped his bell. She answered the summons. "Take this," said he, handing her the check. "I shall not need your services any longer." Mrs. Becky seemed to be about to go into tantrums, when, with a degree of sternness, of which nobody who knew Obed Wintermute, would have supposed him capable. He simply said, "Not a word," and pointed to the door. Mrs. Becky left the neighborhood. What became of her, I do not know. She is a fair type of a class who leave the malodorous shine of their trail in many a home. Happy the home where such as she are powerless! Let her pass. As for Obed Wintermute, the lesson was a good one to him. He apologized in manly fashion to Garland, through his lawyers, for his folly. Whether he will ever be their guest again, is questionable; but it is rumored that his will has been altered in such a manner that Gracie and Harry will have quite a nest egg when he is gathered to his fathers.

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YELLOWSTONE PARK AND ITS FLORA.

THE Yellowstone National Park, with the exception of a narrow strip, two miles wide, on the north and northwest in Montana, and on the southwest in Idaho, lies in the extreme northwest corner of Wyoming. It has a length, north and south, of sixty-two miles, and a breadth of fifty-four miles, containing about three thousand three hundred and fifty square miles. Aside from the wonderful geyser basins and hundreds of boiling springs, but few regions can compare with it in the variety of its topographic features. Plateaus, diversified by deep canyons, lakes and ponds of the greatest beauty of outline, mountain ranges of every possible description, from the rounded, massive form, to those of the rugged and precipitous character.

The central and southern portion of the park is, for the most part, with the exception of the isolated Red Mountain range, in the extreme south, a high, rolling, heavily timbered country, mainly plateau from seven thousand and five hundred to ten thousand feet in altitude,

the latter height being reached only on the high volcanic plateaus in the extreme southeast.

In the northwest rises the Gallatin range, culminating in Electric Peak, eleven thousand feet above the sea level. On the eastern border lie the rugged volcanic peaks of the Absaroka or Yellowstone range, reaching elevations of ten thousand and eight hundred feet on the northeast, and over eleven thousand feet on the southeast. The continental divide crosses the park in the southwestern part, and is generally broad, ill-defined and heavily timbered throughout. It has an elevation of from eight thousand to nine thousand five hundred feet, and at one point but one hundred and fifty feet above Yellowstone lake.

On the western slope of the divide, are the tributaries of the Snake river—the Lewis fork of the Columbia—and on the eastern, those of the Missouri; the latter including the Madison and the east Gallatin on the west and northwest, the Stinkingwater, a tributary of the Big Horn, on the southeast, and the Yellowstone river.